24th February 1930]

Road development in the Madras Presidency.

* 1467 *Q.*—Mr. F. E. JAMES: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras Government was represented at the recent conference held in Simla in regard to road development throughout India and the allocation and control of the increased excise duty on petrol;

(*b*) if not, why not;

(*c*) whether the Madras Government is prepared to accept the proposals made by the Government of India at that conference;

(*d*) if not, why not;

(*e*) what is the Government's policy in regard to the question of road development in the Presidency; and

(*f*) whether they propose to submit their programme to any kind of supervision by the Government of India in return for an allocation from the increased excise duty on petrol?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Both the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government and the Secretary to Government, Local Self-Government Department, were obliged to remain in Madras at the time in connexion with the introduction of important Bills in the Legislative Council.

(*c*) & (*d*) The proceedings of the Conference have not yet been communicated to the Madras Government.

(*e*) The road development policy of this province is confined meantime to the system of grants-in-aid to local bodies for roads and bridges as enunciated in paragraphs 3—5 of G.O. No. 493, Finance, dated 11th May 1921, and G.O. No. 16, L. & M., dated 3rd January 1930, appended.[a] Their future policy must depend on the orders eventually issued by the Government of India on the Indian Road Development Committee's report.

(*f*) The Government have emphatically protested against their programme of expenditure on their selection of works being subjected to such supervision.

Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"With reference to the answer to clause (*f*) may I know whether the Government object to any kind of supervision whatsoever?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Yes, Sir. This is the effect of the letter of this Government."

Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"May I know whether the Government is prepared to forego all contributions from the Central Government?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The matter is still under correspondence between the Government of India and ourselves."

Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"I understood the hon. the Chief Minister to say just now that no decision has been arrived at, but that the Local Government will not accept any supervision from the Central Government. Is he not aware that if he takes that line, the Central Government is not likely to grant any contribution from the petrol tax to Madras?"

---

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 145–149 infra.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I am sorry I was not clear but if supervision is necessary we would like to have the minimum of supervision."

Mr. F. E. JAMES :—"Then the hon. the Chief Minister is prepared to accept some kind of supervision."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"That depends upon what will be the final agreement come to between the Government of India and ourselves."

Representation of the depressed classes in the local bodies.

*1468 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any municipalities and district boards which contain no representatives of the depressed classes and if so, which they are; and

(b) what are the taluk boards that have representatives of the depressed classes as nominated members?

A.—(a) Yes; the municipal councils of Anantapur, Walajapet, Erode, Tirupur, Chicacole, Ongole, Tenali, Kodaikanal, Cochin, Tellicherry, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar, Mayavaram and Karur.

(b) Government have no information in the matter as nominations to taluk boards are made by the presidents of district boards concerned.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"The answer to clause (a) mentions certain municipalities which contain no representatives of the depressed classes. May I know, Sir, why no members of the depressed classes have been nominated to those councils?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"It was not found easy to get representatives of these communities."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know, Sir, whether there are any district boards to which representatives of the depressed classes have not been nominated?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"As far as I am aware all district boards contain representatives of depressed classes."

Election of women and depressed classes to local bodies.

*1469 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there are any municipalities or local boards to which women or any depressed class people have been elected as members?

A.—

Ladies.—Under section 48 (1) (b) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, ladies are disqualified for election to municipal councils. One lady has been elected to a local board, namely, Srimathi Sivabhagyam Ammal to the Ramnad Union Board.